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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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R 091106Z MAY 80
FM AAEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8981
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 02117

E.O. 12065: GDS 08 MAY 86 (JOHNSON, MARILYN P.) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM TO
SUBJECT: POLITICAL PRISONERS IN TOGO

REF: (A) LOME 1794 NOTAL, (B) LOME 1748 NOTAL,
(C) LOME 323 NOTAL

1. (U) WHILE ATTENDING TOGOLESE CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS (CNTT) MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS, PRESIDENT EYADEMA INSTRUCTED CNTT SECRETARY GENERAL NANGBOB BARNABO TO ANNOUNCE THAT FIVE ADDITIONAL POLITICAL PRISONERS HAD BEEN RELEASED. THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD AMNESTIED FIVE OF THE ELEVEN REMAINING POLITICAL DETAINEES.

2. (U) THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH TOGOLESE RESIDENT IN PARIS ON MAY 3, EYADEMA SAID THAT SINCE LAST MAY 1 THERE ARE ONLY SIX POLITICAL PRISONERS REMAINING IN THE PRISONS THAT AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISITED LAST APRIL 30. HE ADDED THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PRISONERS WERE WELL TREATED.

3. (C) AS NOTED REFTELS, TOGOLESE OFFICIALS HAVE DECLINED TO IDENTIFY THE POLITICAL PRISONERS THEY CLAIM TO HAVE RELEASED. THE SIX REMAINING POLITICAL PRISONERS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT MAY BE THE FIVE PERSONS FOUND GUILTY DURING THE STATE SECURITY COURT TRIALS IN AUGUST 1979 (REFTEL C PARA 5) AND THE FORMER AIRPORT COMMANDER (REFTEL C PARA 6).

4. (U) THE ONLY RECENT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL VISIT TO TOGO THAT EMBASSY IS AWARE OF WAS MADE IN JULY-AUGUST 1979. AT THAT TIME AMNESTY CLAIMED THAT SOME OF THOSE HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLOT TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT EMPLOYING FOREIGN MERCENARIES WERE BADLY TREATED.

5. (C) EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY COME TO ATTENTION OF LONDON OR PARIS. JOHNSON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/IMR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 4/27/83
EXEMPTIONS
E.O. 12065 FOIA EXEMPTIONS